

January 22, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Commission Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
CY-B402
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Proceeding 03-16

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing to express support for SBC Ameritech's application under Section 271 of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 to provide long distance services in Michigan.

As an economic development organization, the Economic Development Alliance is aware of how vital communications services are to businesses here in St. Clair County. Our area is home to businesses from around the globe that have a critical need to communicate with their business partners. Our organization is equally aware of how global competition drives today's marketplace, no matter what the business. Similarly, a fully competitive telecommunications market in Michigan will lead to greater choice of providers and competitive prices – a scenario that is good for retaining and attracting businesses, building our local economy and meeting the growing information needs of our business clients.

Allowing SBC Ameritech to leverage its significant network investments in Michigan and provide a full range of services will be good news for Michigan businesses.

Sincerely,

Doug Alexander
Executive Director

cc: Jon Peterson